

The Groundplane

SBARA—The South Bay Amateur Radio Association
KU6S Newsletter

September, 2014
Volume 14, Issue 9



Presidents Message

September is here! The year is seemingly continuing to scream past. I'd like to take the opportunity to once again thank all of the volunteers who worked the Hayward Zucchini Festival! As you may know, this is "THE" SBARA fundraiser for the year and we thank Mike Fung, WA6AWI, for the opportunity. I'd also like to thank Al Rendon, Wt6K, for his tireless efforts to recruit people to cover the shifts. We plan to jump on this earlier, next year, and see if we can't get all of the shifts covered a bit earlier. I think a good time was had by all. I was stationed at the main gate both Saturday and Sunday, from 9:30am to 2:30pm. The weather was perfect and the music was pretty good. There was only one act where I thought that if former American Idol judge, Randy Jackson, were judging, that he would say, "You were a little pitchy, dawg." "Based on their sound check, I wasn't too sure about the all-girl, 80's tribute band, "Flock of Seagirls" (their name is a take-off of "Flock of Seagulls"), but they were actually quite good. Oh...and the zucchini bread was awesome as usual! I think those of us working radios at the main gate and Golf Links, are hoping to use earpieces next year to help hear over the music. Also...be sure to attend the next SBARA meeting when we will be holding the drawing, for all those who worked shifts, to win a \$250 gift certificate from HRO!

As many of you know, I am currently borrowing an Elecraft K3 Transceiver and companion P3 Pan Adapter from a friend of my god father's. This friend was a little intimidated by the radio when he bought it. So my god-father decided to take advantage of my experience as a software trainer and suggest I borrow the setup with the goal to then train him on how to use it. Hey...I thought it was a GREAT idea! It was also convenient as I sent my Kenwood in for the free repair to address the ALC overshoot issue. I'm just hoping that it doesn't cost me in the end...in case I fall in love with the K3. My ongoing joke is that the model number was derived from the cost...as once you configure the K3 with what you want, you're probably into it for \$3K!

Although I have been enjoying the K3, I am still a big fan of my Kenwood TS-590S. But the one device that, in my humble opinion, is just way cool is the Pan Adapter (spectrum scope). I know that many feel this device is a gimmick, but let me tell you that it is a very cool piece of technology!

(cont'd. on Page 2).



Balanced Modulator
7360

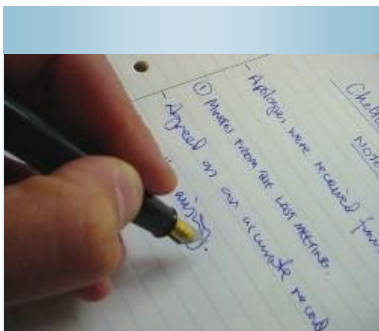
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Special Points of Interest

Pacificon 2014
September VHF Contest
SBARA Meeting
Armed Forces Day Operating Event





Pacificon 2014!

Celebrating 100 years of the ARRL, returns to the Santa Clara Marriott Hotel at 2700 Mission College Blvd in Santa Clara, California.

The convention takes place Friday, October 10th through Sunday, October 12th, 2014. Pacificon 2014 is the ARRL Pacific Division Convention, <http://www.pacificon.org/>

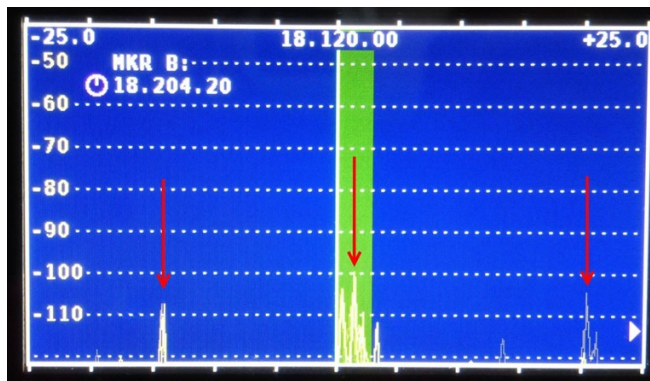
Presidents Message (cont'd. from Page 1)

There are other transceivers, such as the Yeas FT-DX1200 or 3000, the ICOM IC-7600, and the Kenwood TS-990S that also have spectrum scopes. [NOTE: The secret phrase for a free raffle ticket at the next SBARA meeting is "spectrum scope." Write this phrase down on a piece of paper and hand it to Ray at the raffle table for a free ticket. Limit one ticket per person.] Here's the deal. While tuning around the dial looking for a signal, whether contesting or just looking for someone calling CQ, you can only listen to one frequency at a time. You can adjust the speed of your scanning, but again, only the sound of one frequency is going to come out of your speaker at one time. Now...if you are tuning along and someone up or down the band from you transmits for a short burst, there is no way for you to know that they are there.

But...with a Pan Adapter, or Spectrum Scope, centered on the frequency, you are "seeing" signals both above and below your current frequency. So when you see that spike on the screen (see red arrows in screenshot), you know someone is there and you can tune directly to them. I just think that is soooooo cool! It will truly be the one thing that I will truly miss when I give this setup back. Unfortunately, the Kenwood TS-590S does not have an IF output to drive a pan adapter. There are some modifications that can be done, but I'm not quite ready to go to that extreme. I'm hoping Kenwood will come around in this area. When I was looking to purchase a new rig, earlier this year, I just couldn't quite justify upwards of \$3K for the ICOM IC-7600 and, for some reason, I shied away from the Yaesu's. But I think, going forward, you will see more support, both built-in as well as an output on the back, to drive a spectrum scope in future models. I would love to see Kenwood come out with a transceiver between

the TS-590S and the TS-990S, as you can imagine...if I wasn't happy with spending \$3k, \$7K was out of the question for a 990!

Steve Wilson, President
KG6HJU



NASA Astronaut’s Field Day Operation Puts Smiles in Several Faces

07/01/2014

Some lucky — and happy — **ARRL Field Day** participants managed to snag a contact with NASA Astronaut Reid Wiseman, KF5LKT, operating from NA1SS on board the International Space Station. Wiseman, who just came aboard the space station this spring, seemed to have fun working the pileup.

“Enjoyed ARRL FD 14,” Wiseman said on Twitter. “I operated from the ESA *Columbus* module. So many calls!” Wiseman used NA1SS on the standard VHF frequencies of 144.49 MHz up and 145.80 MHz down. It’s not yet known how many stations he was able to contact.

“Me too!!” posted Umesh Ghodke, K6VUG, who operated Field Day from the South Bay Amateur Radio Association (**SBARA**) KU6S site, He reported that NA1SS was full quieting in Fremont, California on the space station’s first Field Day pass over the Pacific and the Midwest Saturday morning.

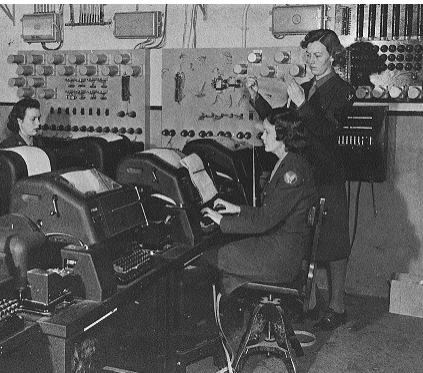
You may read the complete ARRL News Story at — <http://www.arrl.org/news/nasa-astronaut-s-iss-field-day-operation-puts-smiles-on-several-faces>

Way to Go Umesh !!

Teletype for Wireless Communication

The invention and development of the Telegraph in the 1830s by Shilling & Morse introduced instantaneous, long distance, two-way communication to the world. Although initially communication was over wires, the Telegraph set the stage for wireless communications.

Almost as soon as the Telegraph came in to general use, ways to make it print messages directly (instead of relying on highly trained operators) were investigated. Early versions of the "Printing Telegraph" were built and patented in the 1850s. But they did not become practical until the early 1900s.



Teletype machines in use during World War II

Satellite Sighting Information

The following sighting information is published by the Johnson Space Center, Flight Design Division, Orbit Flight Dynamics Group. Sites are chosen in order to provide a representation of the world's demographic distribution. To compute sighting data for sites not listed here, please use the [NASA Skywatch](#) applet which will allow you to enter your exact location.

http://spaceflight.nasa.gov/realdata/sightings/cities/region.cgi?country=United_States®ion=California

September VHF Contest

13th —15th

Objective: For amateurs in the US and Canada (and their possessions) to work as many amateur stations in as many different 2 degrees x 1 degree Maidenhead grid squares as possible using authorized frequencies above 50 MHz. Stations outside the US & Canada (and their possessions) may only work stations in the US (and its possessions) and Canada. Stations in KH0-9, KL7 & KP1-KP5, CY9 and CY0 count as W/VE stations and can be worked by DX stations for contest credit. Details at— www.arrl.org/september-vhf



Do1Thing

SBARA has joined the ranks of Media. Be sure to check us out on Facebook. SBARA's address is:

www.facebook.com/groundplane

Come on up and check us out and help keep the site going strong!

Support SBAR's Monthly



Members to Attend A Board Thank You Dinner

Did you know that one of the perks for being on the SBARA board is the yearly 'thank you' dinner?

This year the dinner is planned for Friday October 24, 2014. The board members will be treated to a wonderful meal at the Market Broiler at Pacific Commons on Auto Mall Pkwy.

Consider serving on the board as a 'member at large'. No specific duties to do but a great opportunity to learn how the SBARA board of directors conducts the club's business. Let our President Steve Wilson KG6HJU know if you would like to sit in on a meeting and consider a position of 'Member at Large'.

73,
Al
WT6K

2014 HAYWARD ZUCCHINI FESTIVAL A BIG SUCCESS

Wow, what a great group of members we have in SBARA. You showed up in force to staff the many shifts at this years Zucchini Festival. There were 20 shifts covered on both Saturday and Sunday by our loyal club members.

The board voted to have a drawing among the members who volunteered with the winner receiving \$250 to spend at HRO.

It is a fun event to volunteer and attend. Lots of comrade between members who volunteer and work together. Sign up is made easy by the online signup web page on the SBARA webpage. Consider next year joining your fellow members by signing up and volunteering to work a shift.

The Hayward Zucchini Festival is on the third full weekend in August.
MARK YOUR CALENDAR
TODAY! It is never too early.

73,
Al
WT6K

Tri-City VE Test Dates

Exams will be administered at Hurricane Electric, 48233 Warm Springs Blvd., Fremont.

Contact: Bernhard, ae6yn at aril dot net for info. \$15 fee. Walk-ins allowed.

Tri-City VE Session Dates 2014

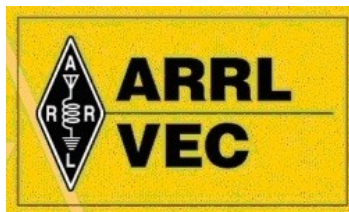
Important!

Sat Sep 13, 2014, 9:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Tue Oct 14, 2014, 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Sat Nov 8, 2014, 9:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Tue Dec 9, 2014, 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.



Have you thought about upgrading yet?
SBARA has many VE Test Sessions to get you that Upgrade!!



SBARA September Calendar Looking Forward

ARRL Centennial QSO Party 1/1 – 365 days, all 50 states, all bands, many modes
There are plenty of contests this month operating in many modes on various bands, so find one and have fun operating!!

MI QRP Labor Day CW Sprint	2300Z, Sep 1 to 0300Z, Sep 2
All Asian DX Contest, Phone	0000Z, Sep 6 to 2400Z, Sep 7
Wake-Up! QRP Sprint	0600Z-0800Z, Sep 6
AGCW Straight Key Party	1300Z-1600Z, Sep 6
North American Sprint, CW	0000Z-0400Z, Sep 7
DARC 10-Meter Digital Contest	1100Z-1700Z, Sep 7
CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z, Sep 10 to 0400Z, Sep 11
FOC QSO Party	0000Z-2359Z, Sep 13
WAE DX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Sep 13 to 2359Z, Sep 14
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	1200Z, Sep 13 to 2359Z, Sep 14
ARRL September VHF Contest	1800Z, Sep 13 to 0300Z, Sep 15
North American Sprint, SSB	0000Z-0400Z, Sep 14
Swiss HTC QRP Sprint	1300Z-1900Z, Sep 14
SARL VHF/UHF Analogue/Digital Contest	1600Z, Sep 19 to 1000Z, Sep 21
ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest	0600 local, Sep 20 to 2400 local, Sep 21
Scandinavian Activity Contest, CW	1200Z, Sep 20 to 1200Z, Sep 21
SRT HF Contest SSB	1300Z, Sep 20 to 1300Z, Sep 21
QRP Afield	1500Z, Sep 20 to 0300Z, Sep 21
Washington State Salmon Run	1600Z, Sep 20 to 2400Z, Sep 21
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, Sep 22
SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Sep 24
CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z, Sep 24 to 0400Z, Sep 25
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, RTTY	0000Z, Sep 27 to 2400Z, Sep 28
Texas QSO Party	1400Z, Sep 27 to 2000Z, Sep 28

Get Involved with SBARA

...come to a monthly meeting.

Our regular meetings take place the second Friday of the month at Hurricane Electric. Pre-Meeting social dinner begins at 6pm. Then at 7pm our meeting social begins with the monthly meeting starting at 7:30pm. Everyone is welcome to attend, regardless of whether you are a member. Bring a friend! Or if you're thinking about becoming a ham, come and learn about the hobby!

...become a member.

Membership is open to all licensed radio amateurs. The annual membership fee of \$35 help support the upkeep of our repeater, as well as participate in the Annual Field Day, plus other communication events.

...join a fox hunt.

On the Saturday of the month (around 7pm) organizes a good old fashioned fox hunt. The starting point is in Fremont, Ca.

...take a VE test.

VE testing is scheduled throughout the year on the second Saturday of the month on even months and on the second Tuesday of the month. Details are in this issue of the Groundplane.

Fremont Repeaters & Net Information

Are you looking for your favorite Repeater? Here is information you can use!

WA6PWW— 147.015 + 600Khz, PL 103.5	600Khz, PL 123.0 K6AIR—441.525 +5Mhz, PL 123.0
WA6PWW—223.900— 500Khz, PL 107.2	ARES Net Meeting— Tuesday Evenings @ 7:30pm on 147.015+600Khz, PL 103.5
WA6PWW—442.600 +5Mhz, PL107.2	
K6AIR—146.940—	

Time to dust off those Keys....

The Slow CW net is taking place
Every Thursday and Sunday night at 7:30 pm on 144.230MHz.

The net has now its own e-mail address. Please contact us here:
"SF Bay CW Enthusiasts" <so-bay-cw-enthusiasts at googlegroups.com>

—... —

Bernhard AE6YN

SBARA Meeting Location Second Friday of the Month

Our meeting location is at:
Hurricane Electric.
The address in Fremont is:
760 Mission Court — Come to the meeting.
Bring your HF transceiver, antenna or HT !
Talk-In 147.015Mhz. +600
Mingle with your fellow SBARA members!

The South Bay Amateur Radio Association., is a general interest amateur radio club serving the Fremont Tri-City area. Records indicate the club has been in existence since at least 1974, and has functioned continuously ever since. We are an ARRL Special Service Club, an California not-for-profit corporation, and a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization as specified in IRS Statutes. We sponsor training classes for new hams, license examination sessions, and participate in various public service events. If you have a specialized amateur radio interest, chances are you can share it with one or more of our club members.

The South Bay Amateur Radio Association meets on the 2nd Friday of every month at Hurricane Electric in Fremont. The meeting begins at 7:30 PM and includes social time, a business portion and a program of interest.

All persons interested in amateur radio are invited to attend. Families are welcome.

We hope to see you there!



**South Bay Amateur Radio
Association - SBARA**
Founded 1974
Mailing Address
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Web Site — www.sbara.org
**Face book—[www.facebook.com/
groundplane](https://www.facebook.com/groundplane)**

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SBARA - Groundplane

The Groundplane is published monthly by the South Bay Amateur Radio Association. Articles and letters are always welcome. The normal deadline for material is the 20th day of each month for the next month's news-letter. Articles can be sent by email to hamradio at Comcast dot net or via U.S. Mail. Contact the Editor for details and submission guidelines.

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Upcoming SBARA Events

September Action Packed Meeting

September 12th, 2014 at 7:30pm Hurricane Electric, Fremont

Amateur Exams

ARRL VEC– September 13th @ 9:30am at Hurricane Electric – 48233 Warm Springs Blvd. Fremont. **Contact:** Greg, ae6yn at aril dot net for info. \$15 fee.

Additional information is described at Website, www.sbara.org

South Bay Amateur Radio Association — SBARA
The Ground Plane — KU6S
<http://www.sbara.org>
P.O. Box 8401
Fremont, Ca.

PLEASE
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